Chapter 22: Drinking with Ishimura-san

Clink
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Clink
コ
PREMIUM SHOCHU
Thud
Thud
KUBO
DASSAI
Clack
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ミャ
Clack
ガ
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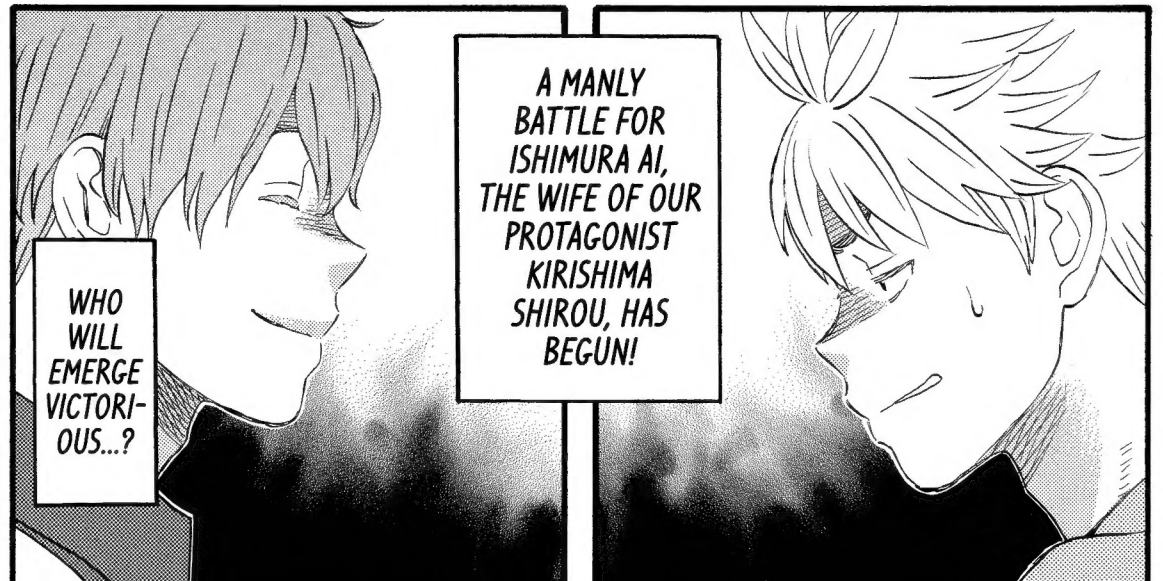
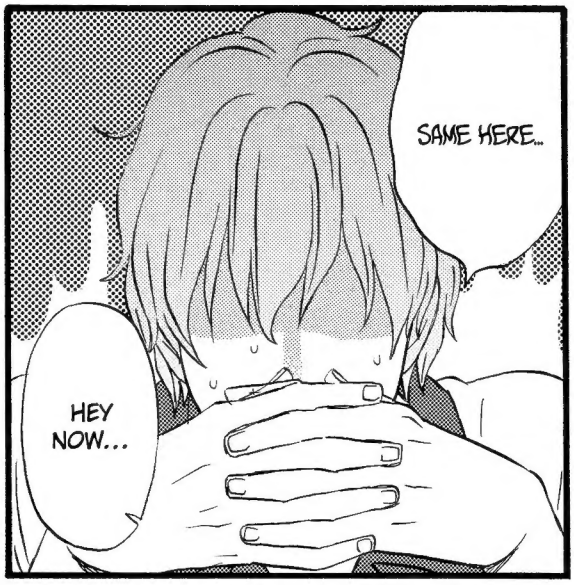
HEBISU

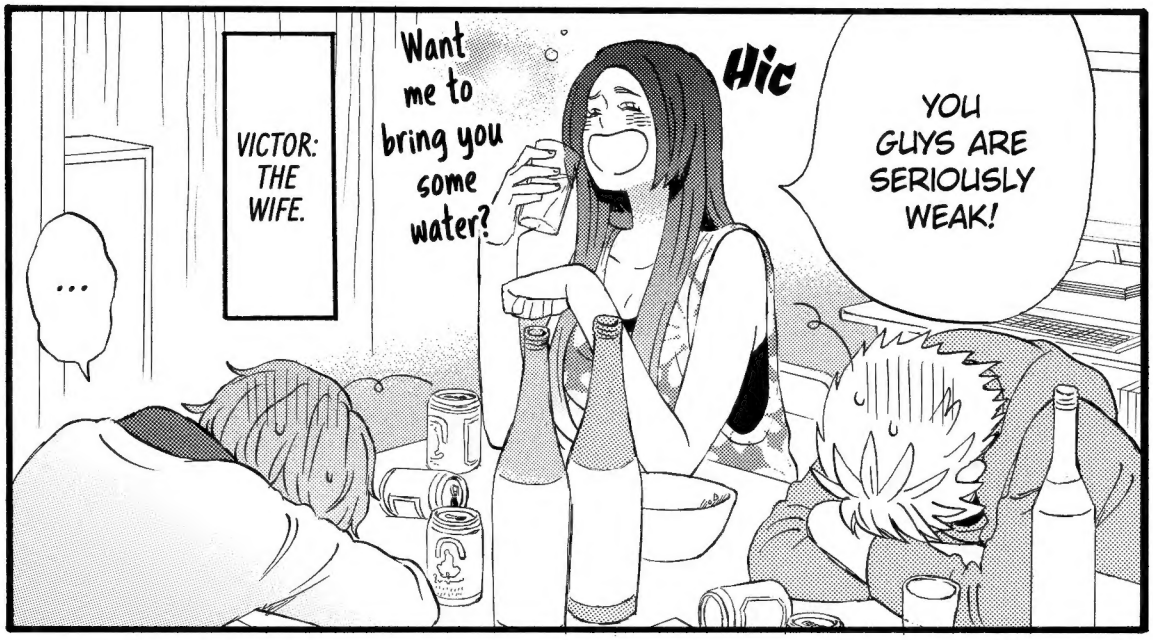
PREVIOUSLY ON LA LA LA...
THE ONE WHO GETS WASTED FIRST LOSES. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OHHH? SO THAT'S YOUR PLAN, HUH? I KNEW IT.
...

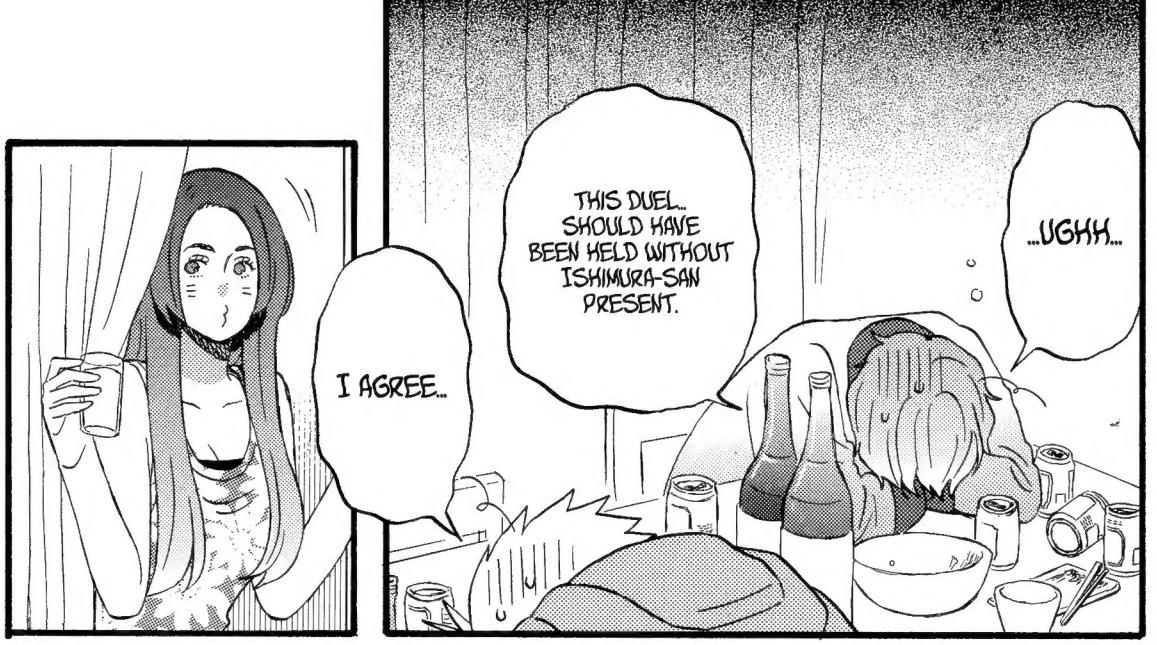

A MANLY BATTLE FOR ISHIMURA AI, THE WIFE OF OUR PROTAGONIST KIRISHIMA SHIROU, HAS BEGUN!
WHO WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS...?

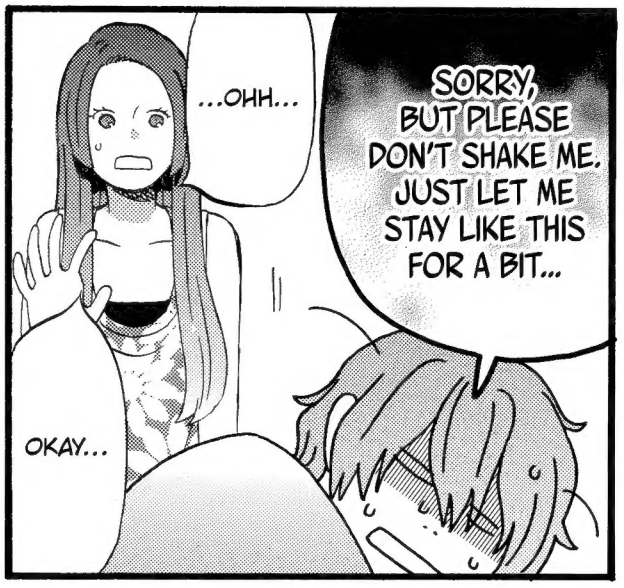
DASSAI
TRADITION
DIY
...
I... CAN'T DRINK ANYMORE...


SAME HERE...
HEY NOW...

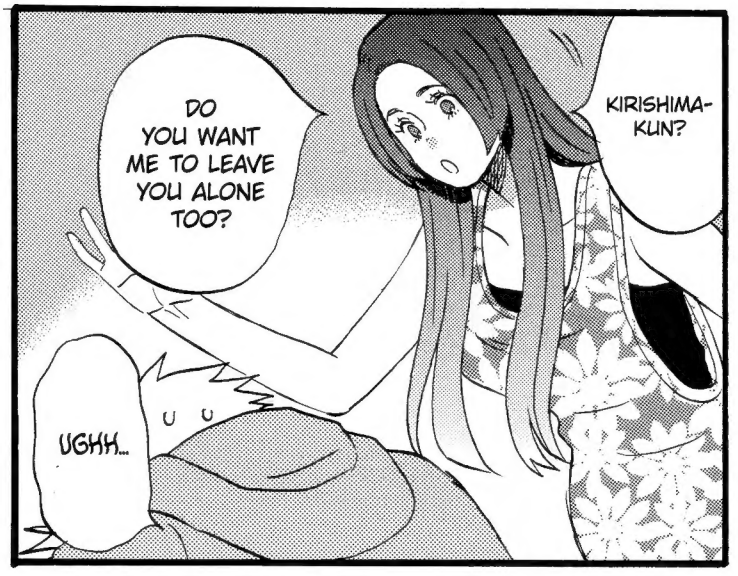
I GIVE UP.

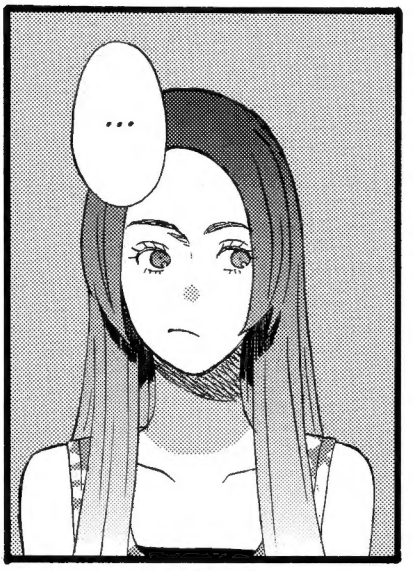

VICTOR: THE WIFE.
Want me to bring you some water?
Hic
YOU GUYS ARE SERIOUSLY WEAK!
...


I AGREE...
THIS DUEL... SHOULD HAVE BEEN HELD WITHOUT ISHIMURA-SAN PRESENT.
...UGHH...


...OHH...
SORRY, BUT PLEASE DON'T SHAKE ME. JUST LET ME STAY LIKE THIS FOR A BIT...
OKAY...

IT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR KIRISHIMA-KUN, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, SAIGA-SENSEI? DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TOMORROW?
HEEEY?
I HAVE... THE DAY OFF...
Shake


DO YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE YOU ALONE TOO?
KIRISHIMA-KUN?
UGHH...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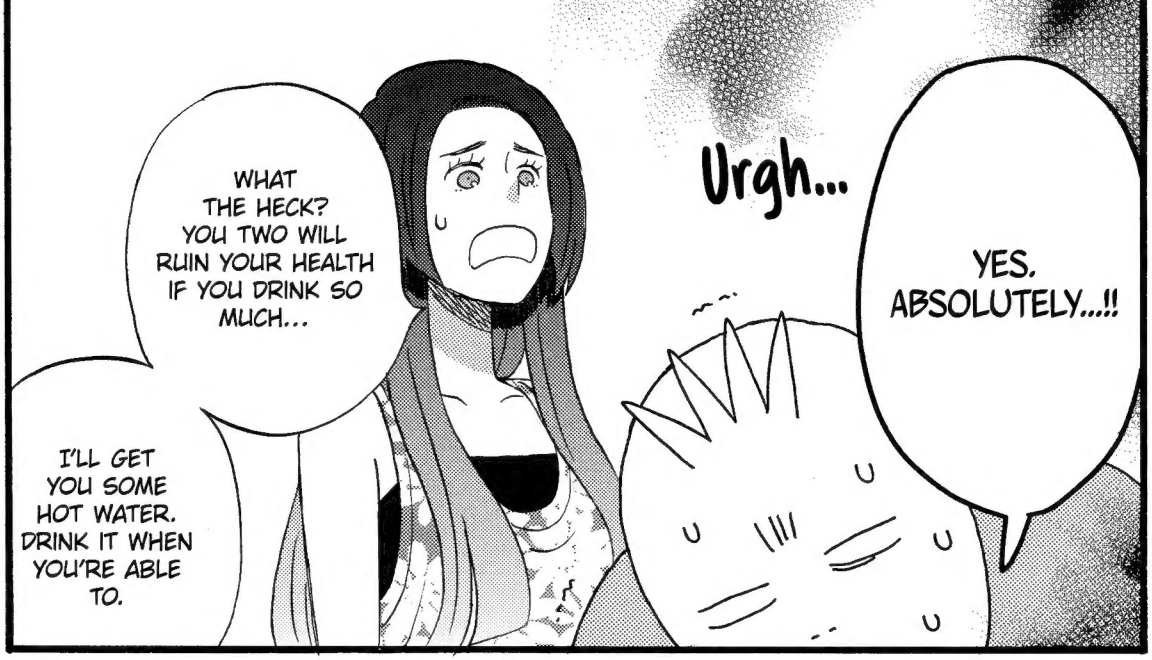
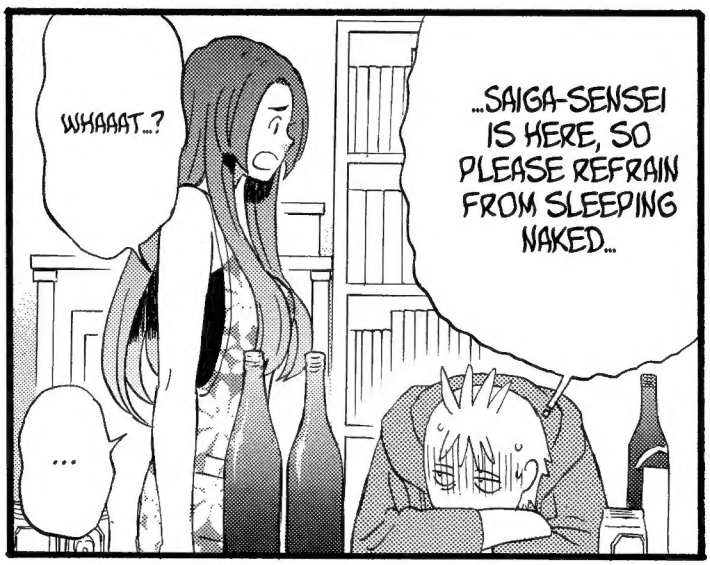
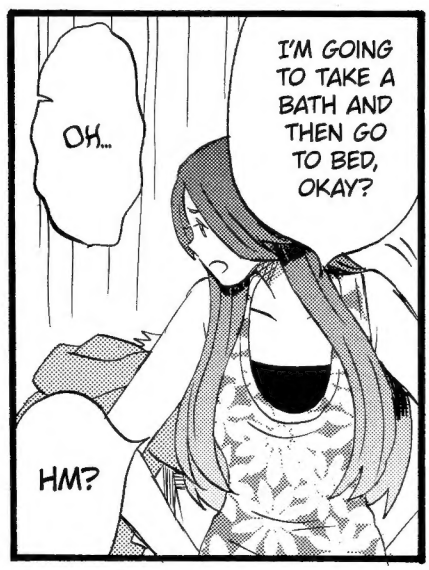
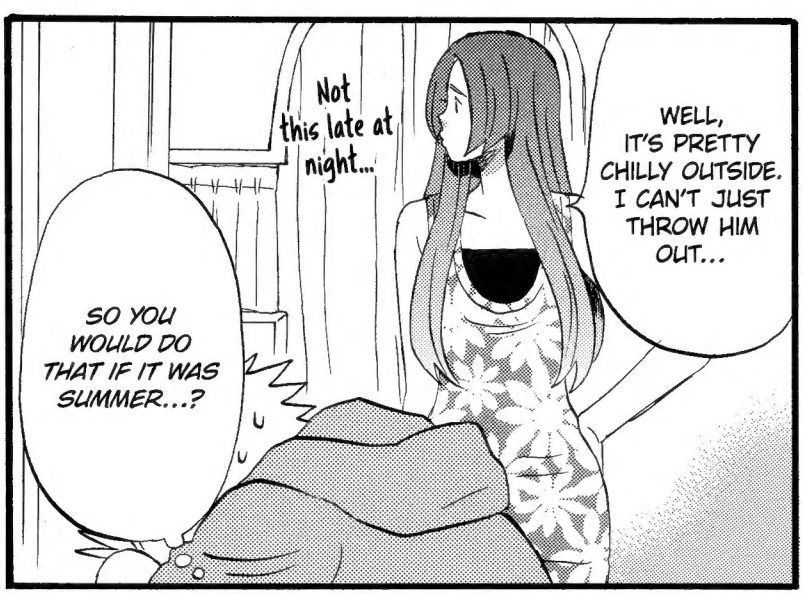
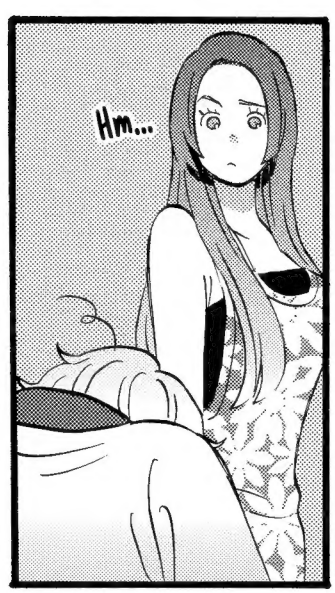

WHAT THE HECK? YOU TWO WILL RUIN YOUR HEALTH IF YOU DRINK SO MUCH...
Urgh...
YES. ABSOLUTELY...!!
I'LL GET YOU SOME HOT WATER. DRINK IT WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO.

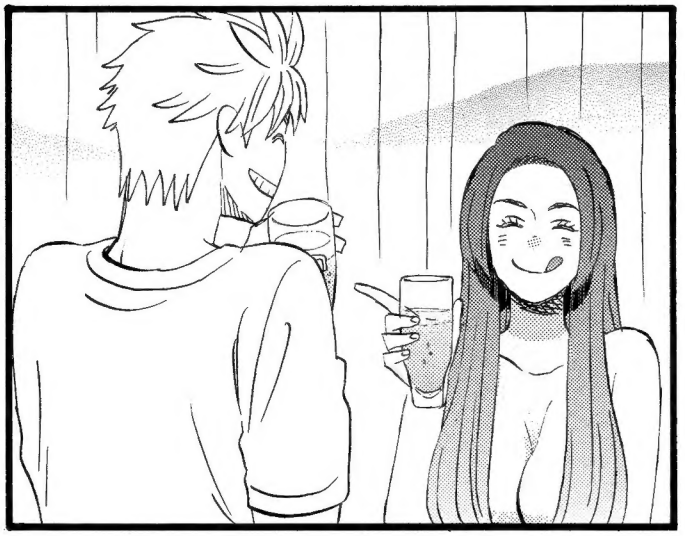

WHAAAT...?
...SAIGA-SENSEI IS HERE, SO PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SLEEPING NAKED...
...

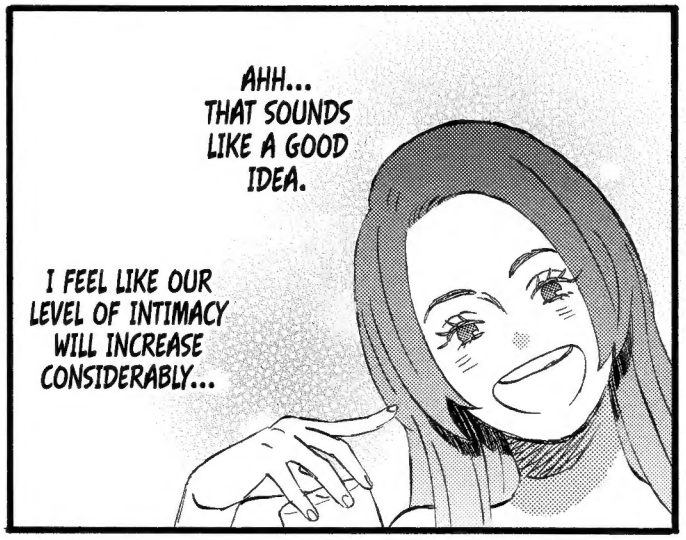

OH...
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH AND THEN GO TO BED, OKAY?
HM?


Not this late at night...
WELL, IT'S PRETTY CHILLY OUTSIDE. I CAN'T JUST THROW HIM OUT...
SO YOU WOULD DO THAT IF IT WAS SUMMER...?


Hm...

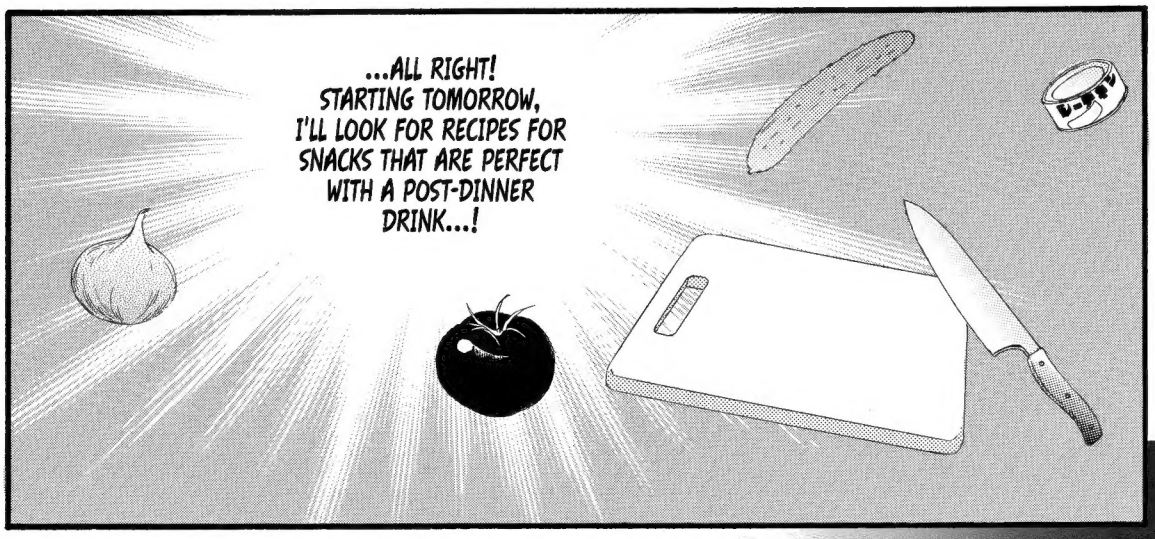
JUST LIKE TODAY, I COULD PREPARE SOME SNACKS...
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE A FEW DRINKS AFTER DINNER...?
TO GO WITH THE BOOZE...
AsaRi




AHH... THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
I FEEL LIKE OUR LEVEL OF INTIMACY WILL INCREASE CONSIDERABLY...

HMM...
FOR THE SAKE OF MY MARRIAGE...
I NEED TO STRENGTHEN MY ALCOHOL TOLERANCE...

THEN, ONE DAY, I'LL BE MORE THAN JUST SOMEONE WHO LIVES WITH HER AND LOOKS AFTER THE HOUSE. I'LL BE HER TRUE HUSBAND...

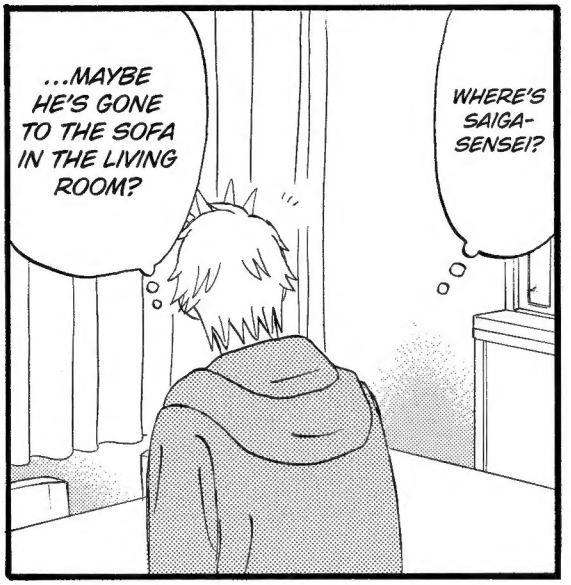

...ALL RIGHT! STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL LOOK FOR RECIPES FOR SNACKS THAT ARE PERFECT WITH A POST-DINNER DRINK...!

WHOA!
DID I FALL ASLEEP?

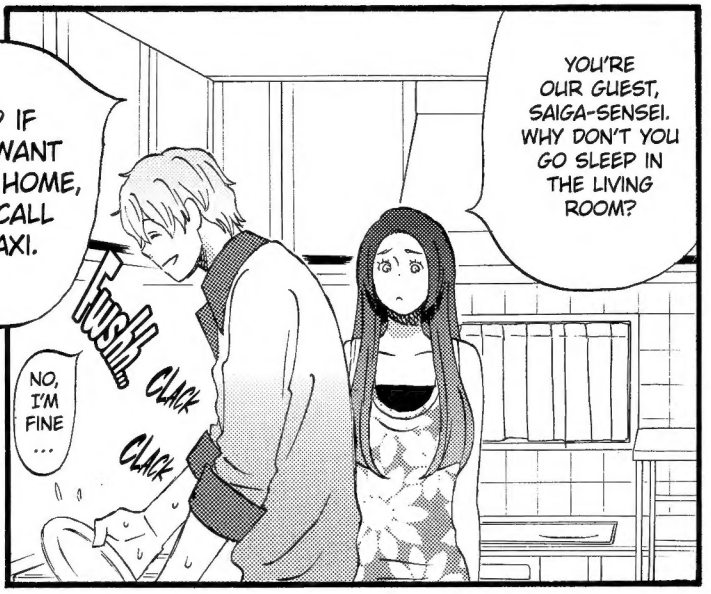
...HMM...

...

Fushh...
HUH?
I'M HEARING SOUNDS COMING FROM THE KITCHEN...
YOU DON'T NEED TO WASH THE PLATES...


WHERE'S SAIGA-SENSEI?
...MAYBE HE'S GONE TO THE SOFA IN THE LIVING ROOM?

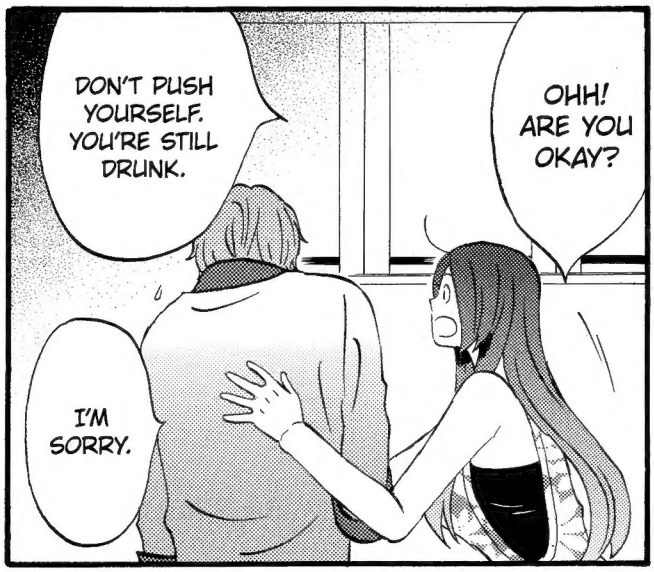
OHH... ISHIMURA-SAN IS STILL AWAKE.
AND IF YOU WANT TO GO HOME, I'LL CALL A TAXI.

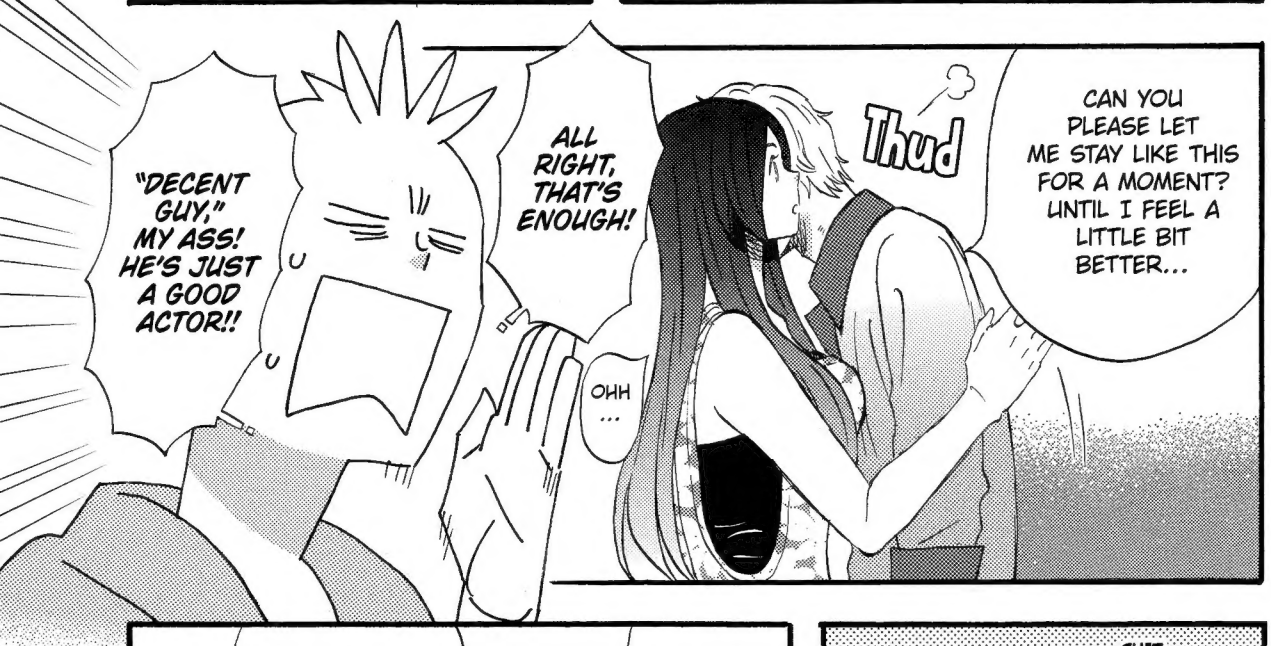

YOU'RE OUR GUEST, SAIGA-SENSEI. WHY DON'T YOU GO SLEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM?
Fushh
CLACK
CLACK
NO, I'M FINE ...

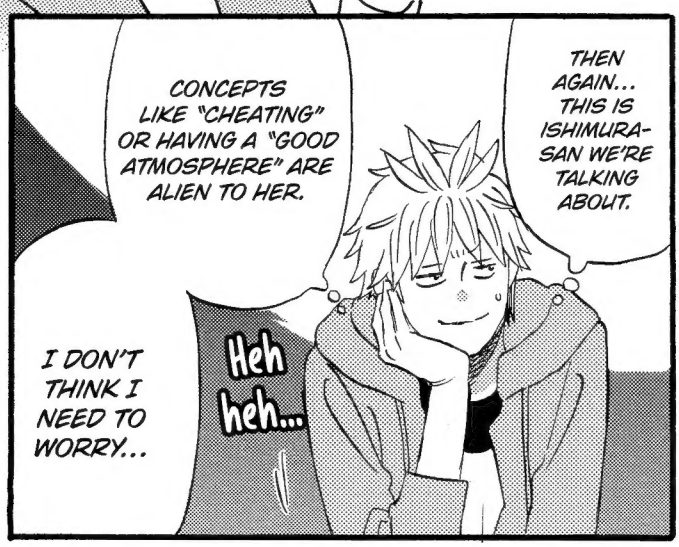
WOBBLE
...WHOA.

ANYWAY, WAS SAIGA-SENSEI THE ONE WHO CLEANED THINGS UP?
WHAT A DECENT GUY. I'M SURPRISED.

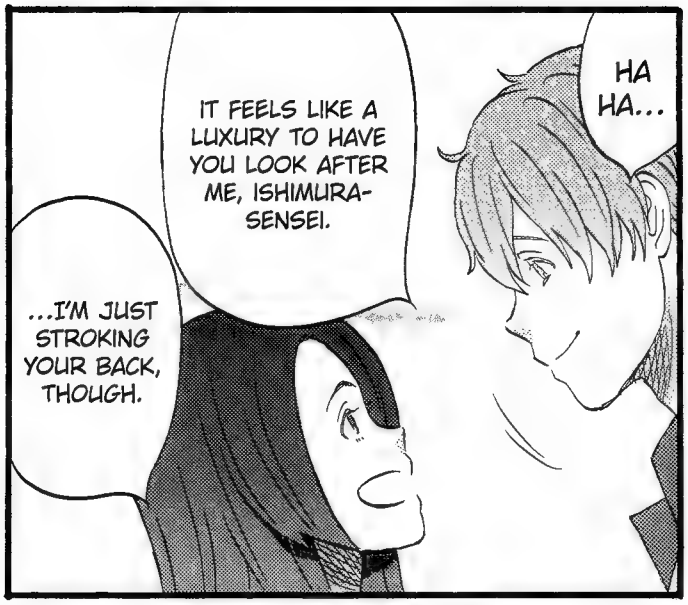
THERE'S A SOFA IN THE LIVING ROOM. YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN THERE.
HN...
IT'S OKAY.

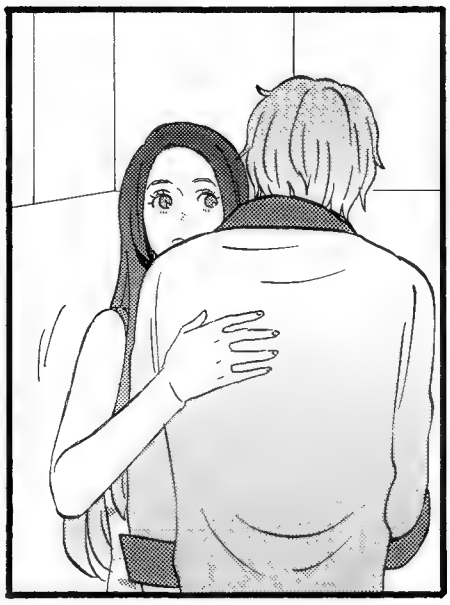

OHH! ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. YOU'RE STILL DRUNK.
I'M SORRY.

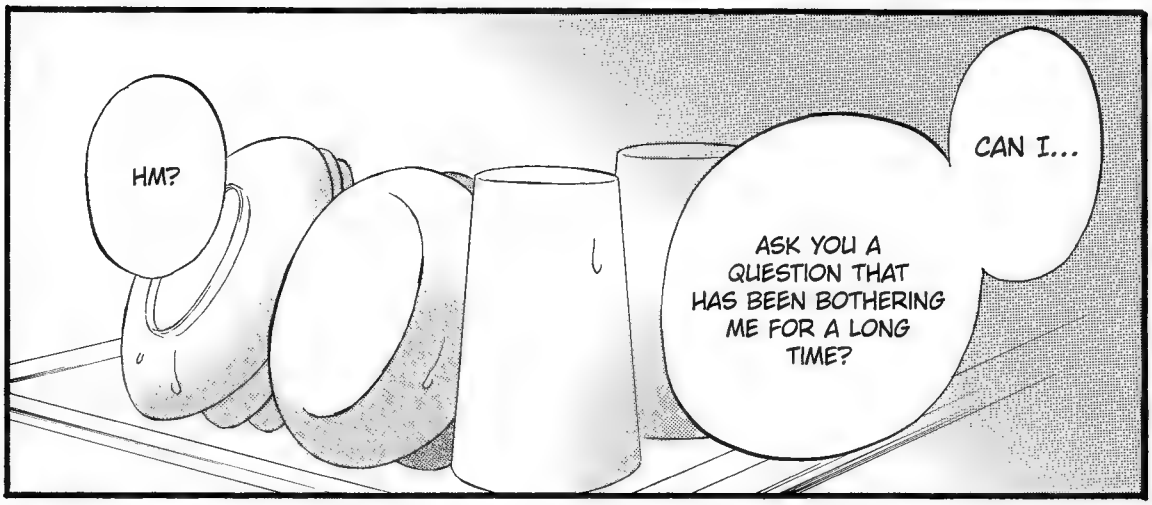

CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME STAY LIKE THIS FOR A MOMENT? UNTIL I FEEL A LITTLE BIT BETTER...
Thud
OHH...
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!
"DECENT GUY," MY ASS! HE'S JUST A GOOD ACTOR!!


THEN AGAIN... THIS IS ISHIMURA-SAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
CONCEPTS LIKE "CHEATING" OR HAVING A "GOOD ATMOSPHERE" ARE ALIEN TO HER.
I DON'T THINK I NEED TO WORRY...
Heh heh...

SHIT... I'D LOVE TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO GET IN HIS WAY.
BUT I STILL CAN'T MOVE MY BODY AS WELL AS I WANT...
BURP...


IT FEELS LIKE A LUXURY TO HAVE YOU LOOK AFTER ME, ISHIMURA-SENSEI.
HA HA...
...I'M JUST STROKING YOUR BACK, THOUGH.




HM?
CAN I...
ASK YOU A QUESTION THAT HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR A LONG TIME?

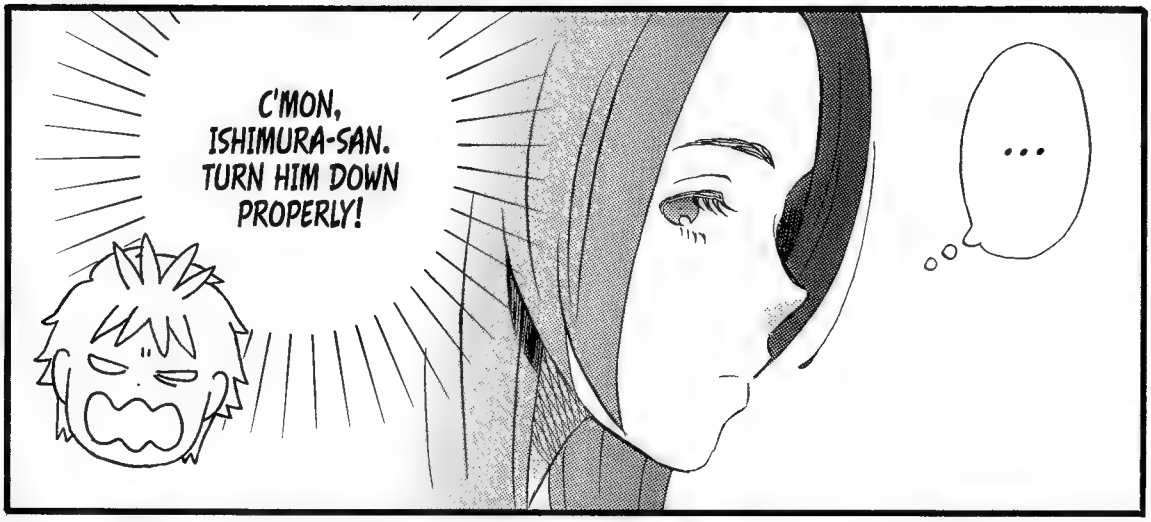
SO WHY...

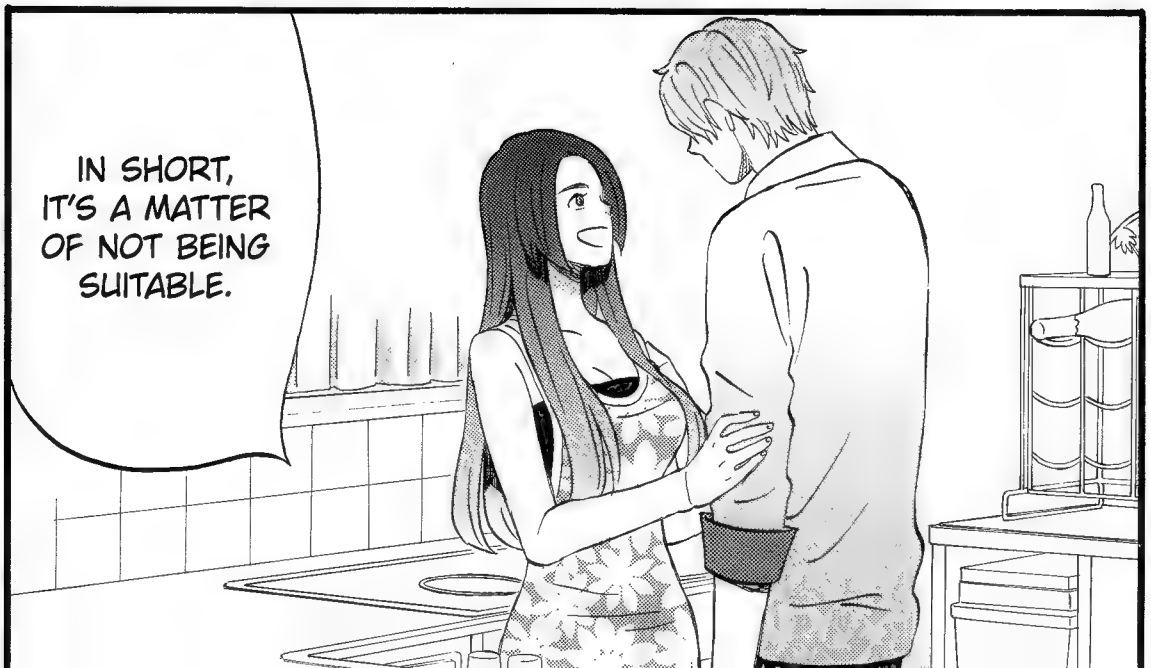
WELL... I GUESS SO.
HMM?
FOR A WHILE NOW... YOU HAVE BEEN AWARE OF MY FEELINGS FOR YOU, RIGHT?

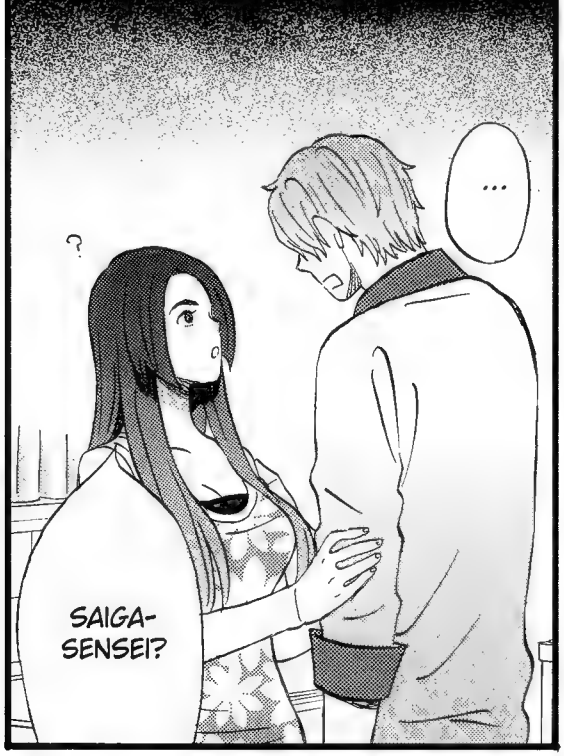
WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN ME?
YOU'D RATHER MARRY SOME RANDOM UNEMPLOYED MAN. A COMPLETE STRANGER...
I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNLESS YOU GIVE ME A VALID REASON.
A FAKE MARRIAGE FOR THE SAKE OF BECOMING A DIVORCÉE...
IF YOU'D ASKED ME, I WOULD HAVE AGREED TO HELP YOU. AND YET...

BUT STILL, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GET A FRIGGIN' CLUE. SHE'S NOT INTERESTED IN YOU, DUMBASS!

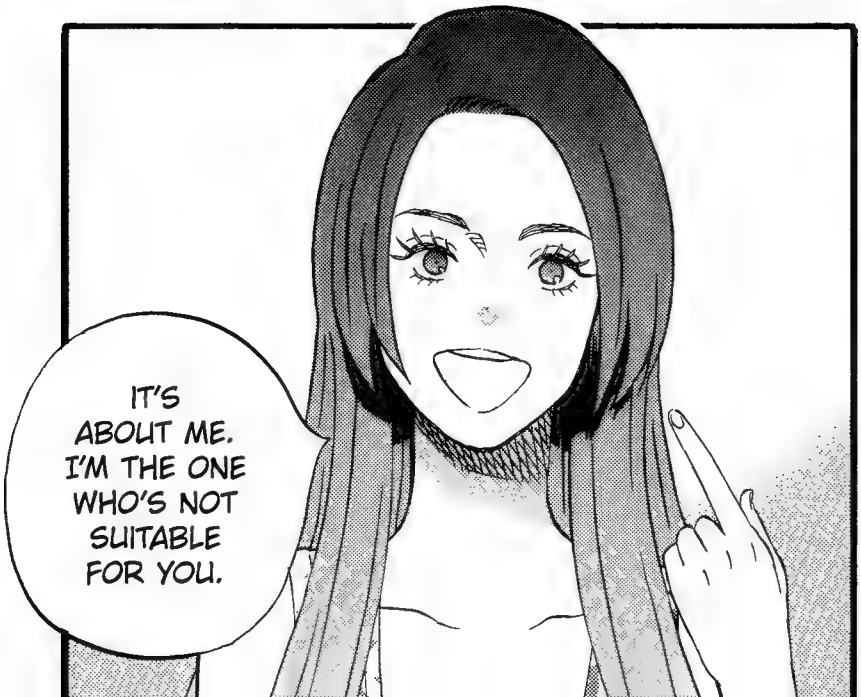
WOW. THAT'S HARSH...
TRULY, LOSING TO THAT MAN WILL RUIN MY SELF-CONFIDENCE FOREVER. I WON'T RECOVER FROM THAT...

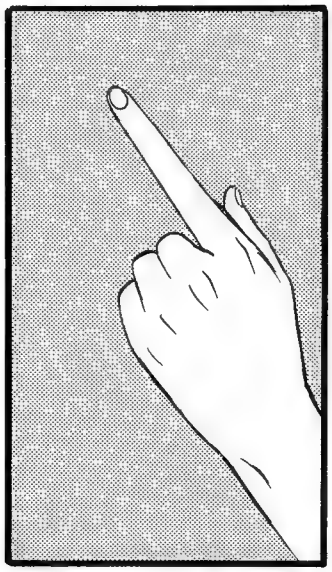

C'MON, ISHIMURA-SAN. TURN HIM DOWN PROPERLY!
...

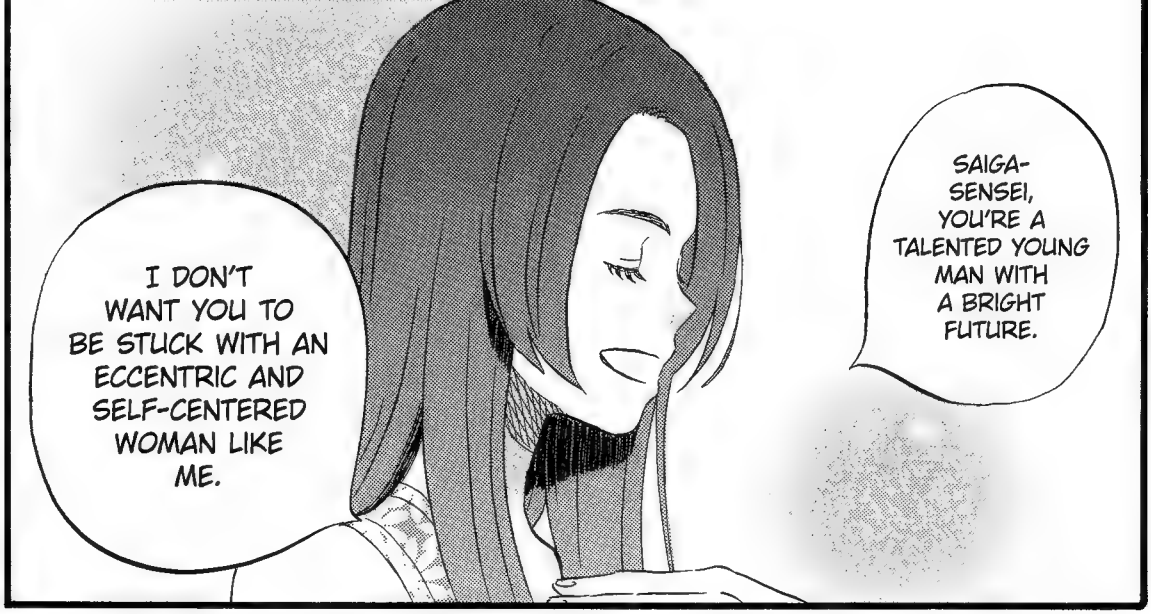

IN SHORT, IT'S A MATTER OF NOT BEING SUITABLE.


...
?
SAIGA-SENSEI?

...HONESTLY, I'M STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND...
For a moment, I was at a loss for words!!
I'm sorry...
H-
HOW AM I NOT SUITABLE, BUT THAT GUY IS?!
NO, NO, NO. IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU.

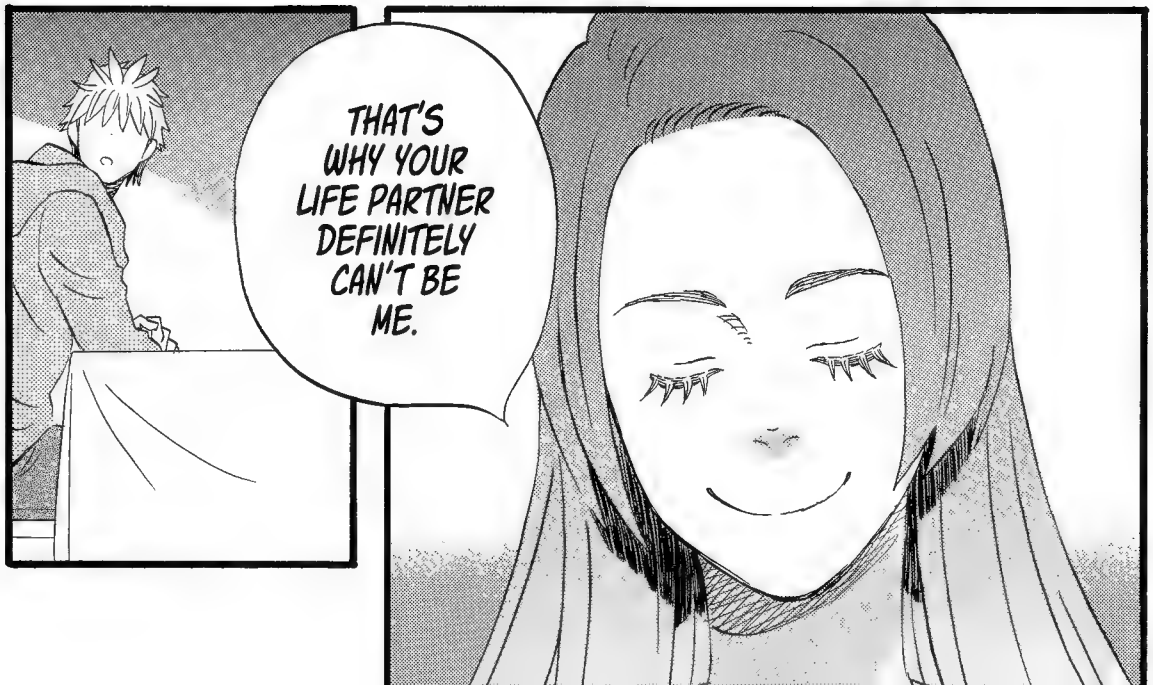

IT'S ABOUT ME. I'M THE ONE WHO'S NOT SUITABLE FOR YOU.




SAIGA-SENSEI, YOU'RE A TALENTED YOUNG MAN WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE STUCK WITH AN ECCENTRIC AND SELF-CENTERED WOMAN LIKE ME.

I SAY THIS BECAUSE I DO LIKE YOU, IN MY OWN WAY.
I WANT A GOOD GUY LIKE YOU TO BE HAPPY.

I'M SURE THERE ARE FAR BETTER CANDIDATES OUT THERE.
SO I SINCERELY HOPE YOU FIND THE RIGHT PERSON SOON.


THAT'S WHY YOUR LIFE PARTNER DEFINITELY CAN'T BE ME.

I UNDERSTAND IT NOW. ISHIMURA-SAN IS UNABLE TO RECIPROCATE HER PARTNER'S ROMANTIC FEELINGS.

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL AND SEXY, SO...

WHY HAS SHE NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND?

SHE WOULD PREFER THAT THE PERSON SHE HAS FEELINGS FOR DATE SOMEONE ELSE.

SHE'S AWARE THAT HER ECCENTRICITY MAKES HER UNABLE TO DEVELOP A PROPER ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

...

GOING BY THAT LOGIC...

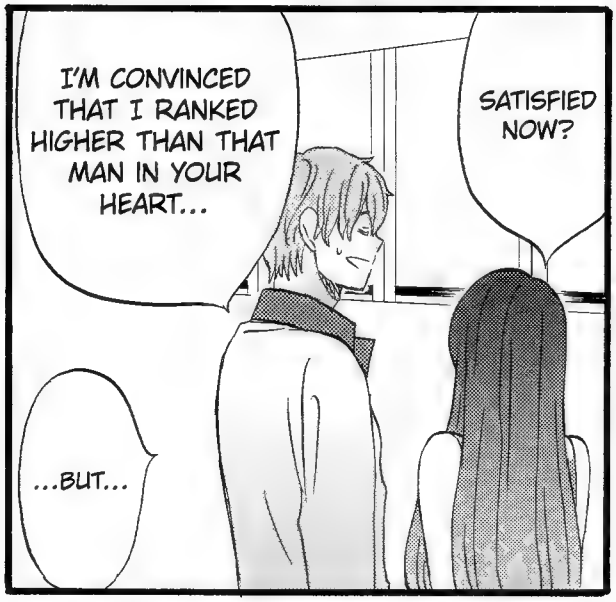
Does things completely at her own pace!

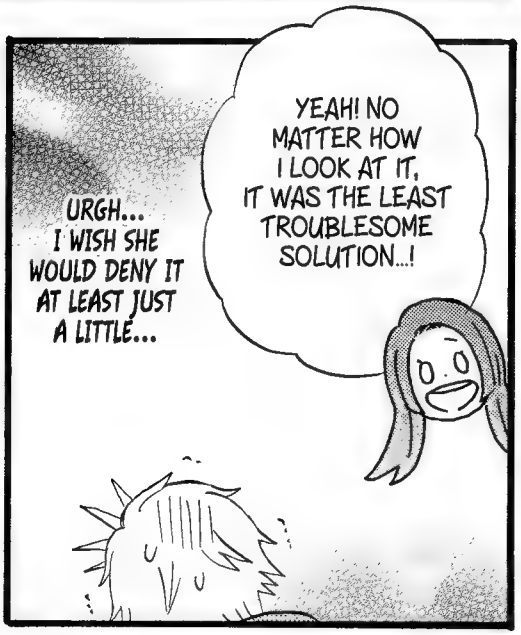
Indoor hobbies!

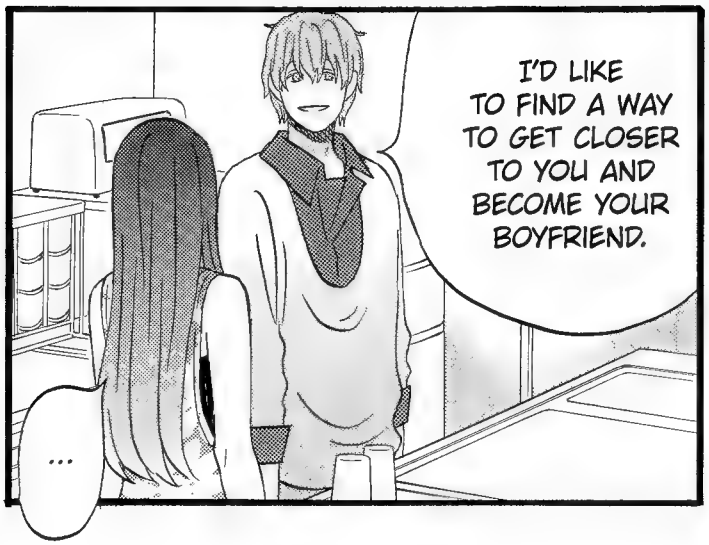
Nudist!

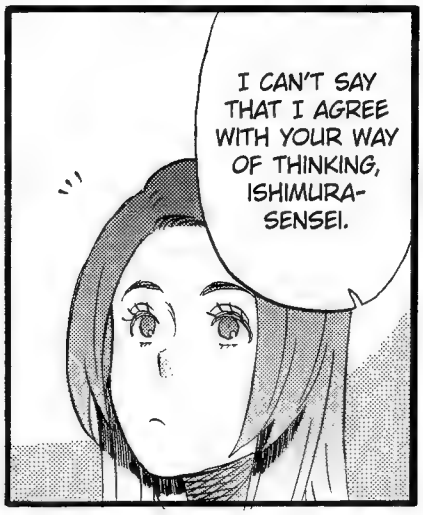
CONSIDERING MY EXPERIENCE LIVING WITH HER, I CAN SEE WHY...

...BINGO.
DID YOU MARRY THAT MAN BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T CARE FOR HIM IN THE SLIGHTEST?


I'M CONVINCED THAT I RANKED HIGHER THAN THAT MAN IN YOUR HEART...
SATISFIED NOW?
...BUT...


YEAH! NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, IT WAS THE LEAST TROUBLESOME SOLUTION...!
URGH... I WISH SHE WOULD DENY IT AT LEAST JUST A LITTLE...


I'D LIKE TO FIND A WAY TO GET CLOSER TO YOU AND BECOME YOUR BOYFRIEND.
...


I CAN'T SAY THAT I AGREE WITH YOUR WAY OF THINKING, ISHIMURA-SENSEI.

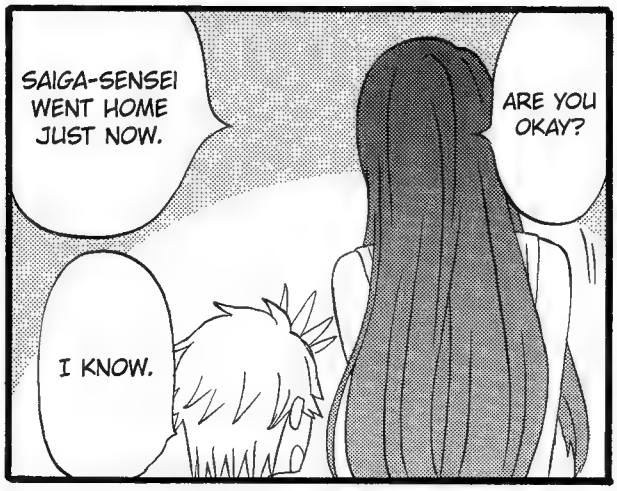
WANT ME TO CALL ONE FOR YOU?
I'LL TAKE A TAXI AND GO HOME.
TMP
TMP
TMP
IT'S FINE, THANK YOU. I'LL WALK TO THE NEAREST TAXI STAND AND PICK ONE UP FROM THERE.

YOU'RE FREE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. BUT, HONESTLY, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
WHETHER IT'S A WASTE OF TIME OR NOT, IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY.

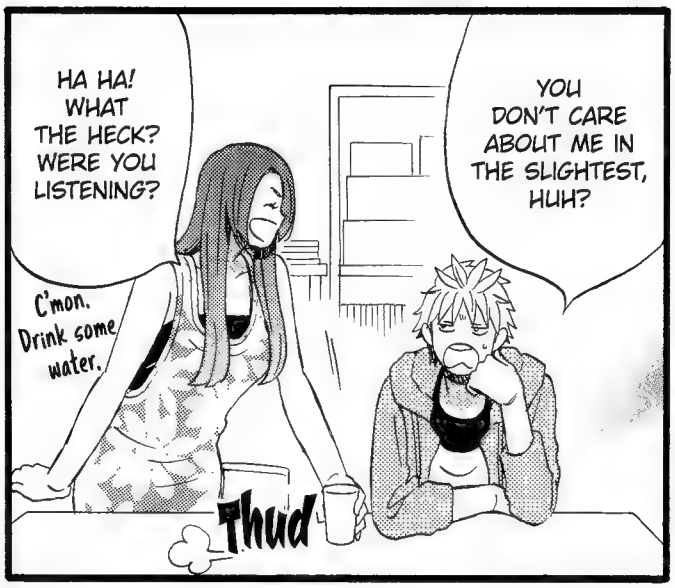
...
OHH! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SLEEPING, KIRISHIMA-KUN.

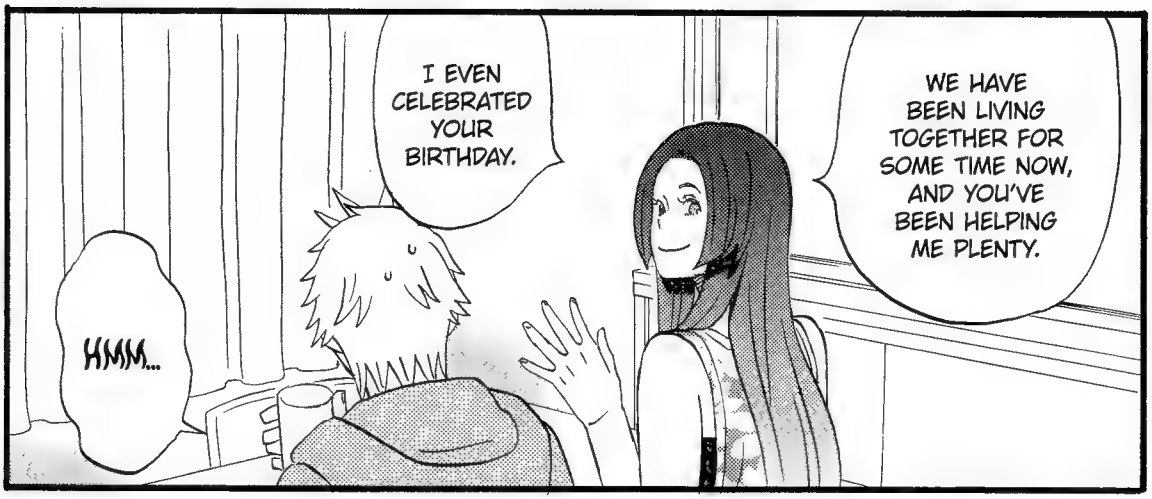
HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.

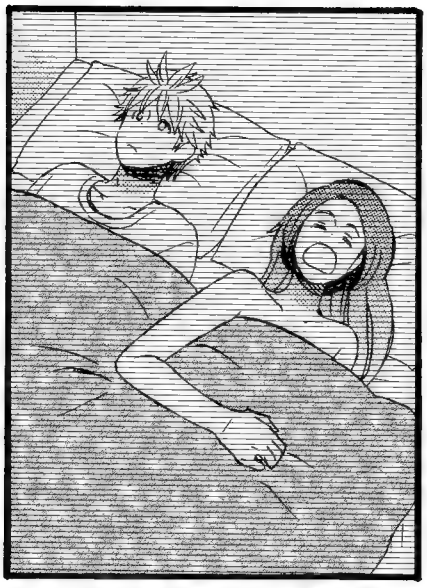
...
I GUESS...

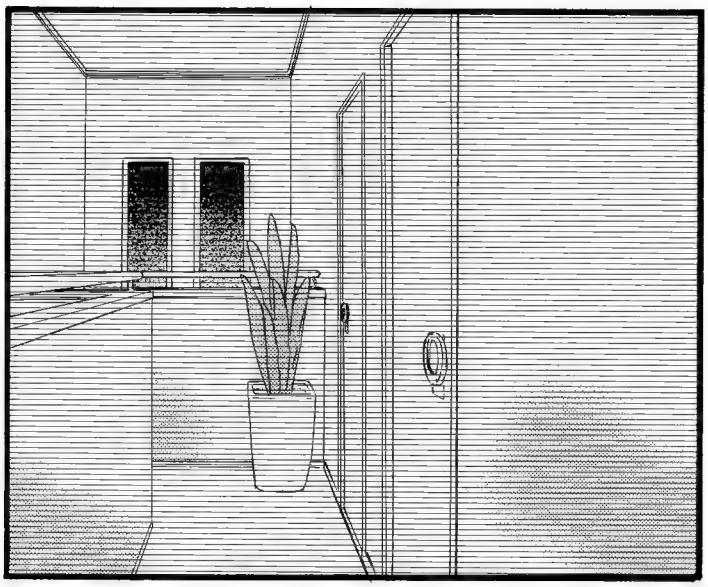

SAIGA-SENSEI WENT HOME JUST NOW.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I KNOW.

WELL, I DON'T THINK THAT ANYMORE.


HA HA! WHAT THE HECK? WERE YOU LISTENING?
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME IN THE SLIGHTEST, HUH?
C'mon. Drink some water.
Thud

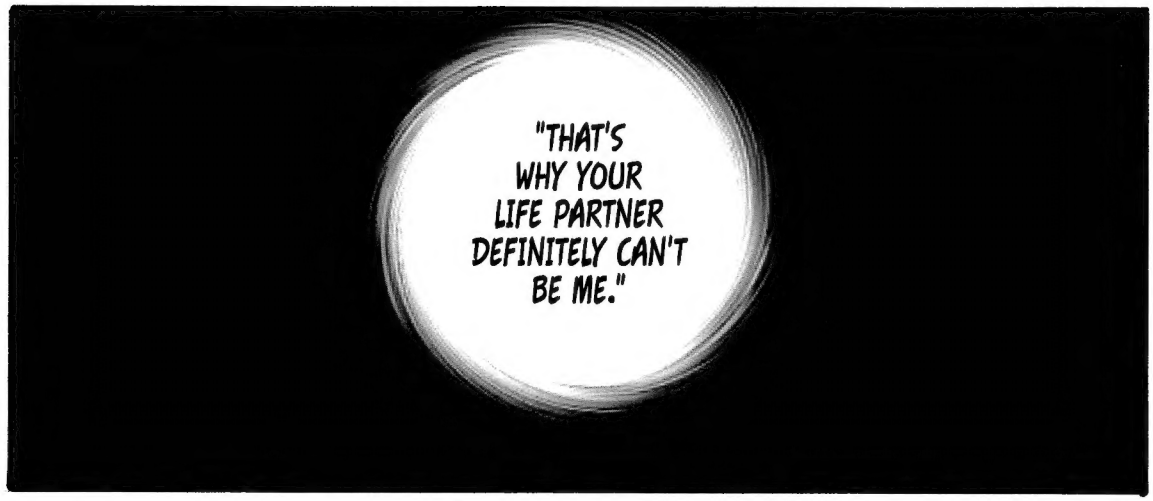

I EVEN CELEBRATED YOUR BIRTHDAY.
WE HAVE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR SOME TIME NOW, AND YOU'VE BEEN HELPING ME PLENTY.
HMM...

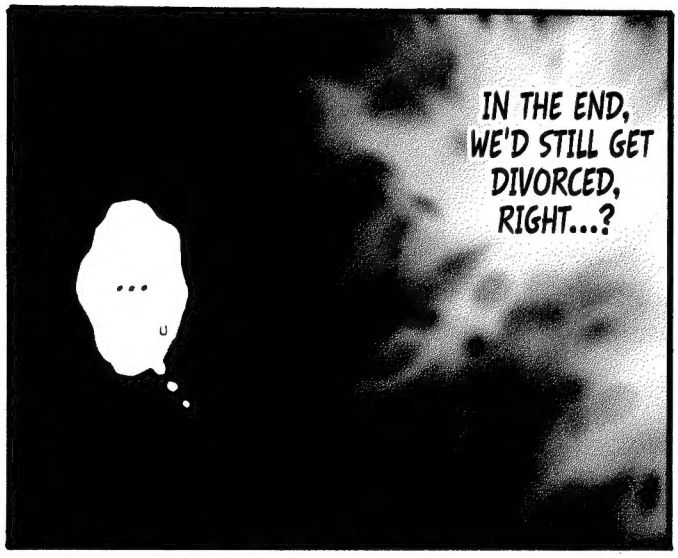




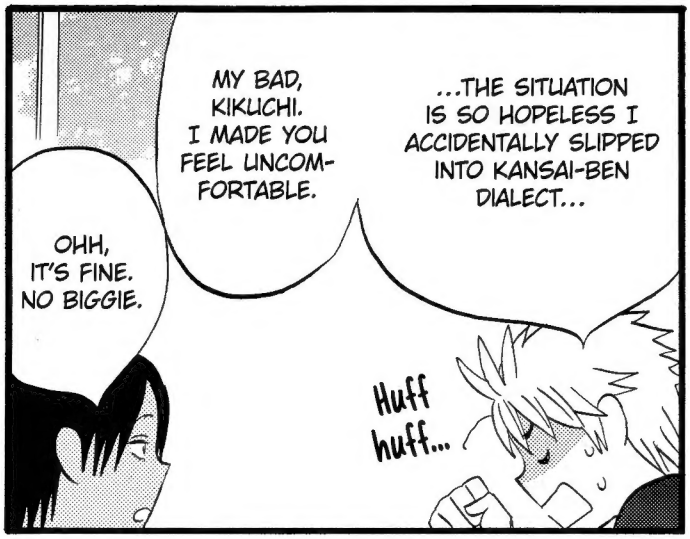
I BELIEVED THAT IF ISHIMURA-SAN FELL IN LOVE WITH ME, WE COULD ONE DAY BE A COUPLE IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. BUT...
EVEN IF ISHIMURA-SAN FALLS IN LOVE WITH ME...

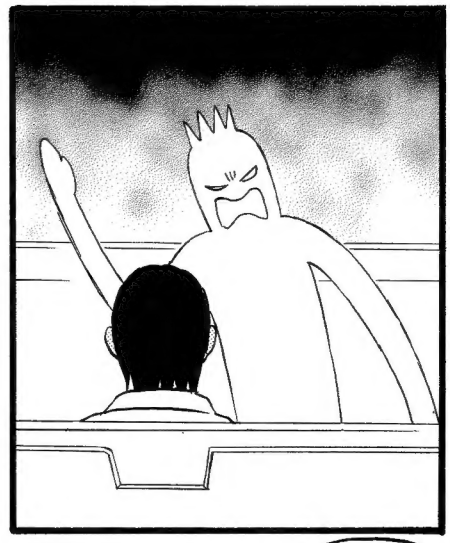
...

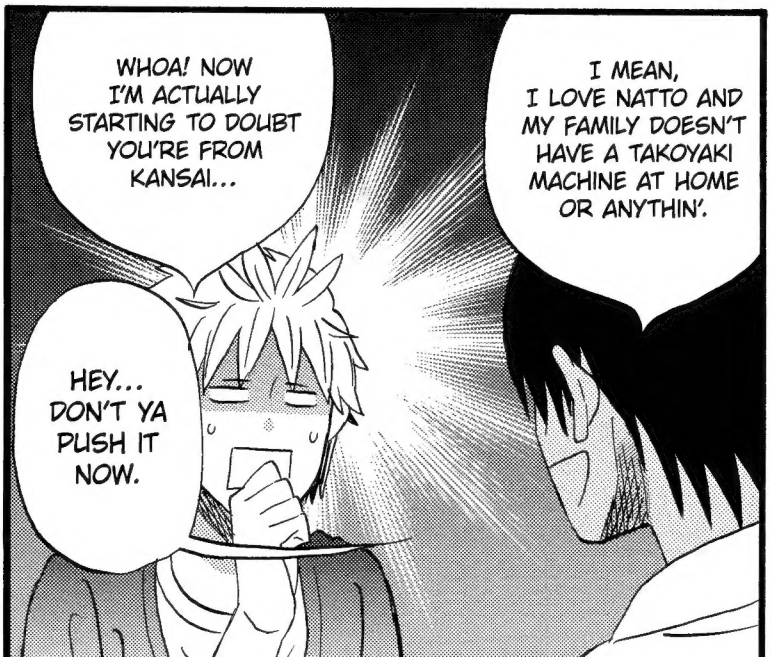

"THAT'S WHY YOUR LIFE PARTNER DEFINITELY CAN'T BE ME."


IN THE END, WE'D STILL GET DIVORCED, RIGHT...?
...

...IT'S LIKE...
twip
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!


...THE SITUATION IS SO HOPELESS I ACCIDENTALLY SLIPPED INTO KANSAI-BEN DIALECT...
MY BAD, KIKUCHI. I MADE YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.
OHH, IT'S FINE. NO BIGGIE.
Huff huff...

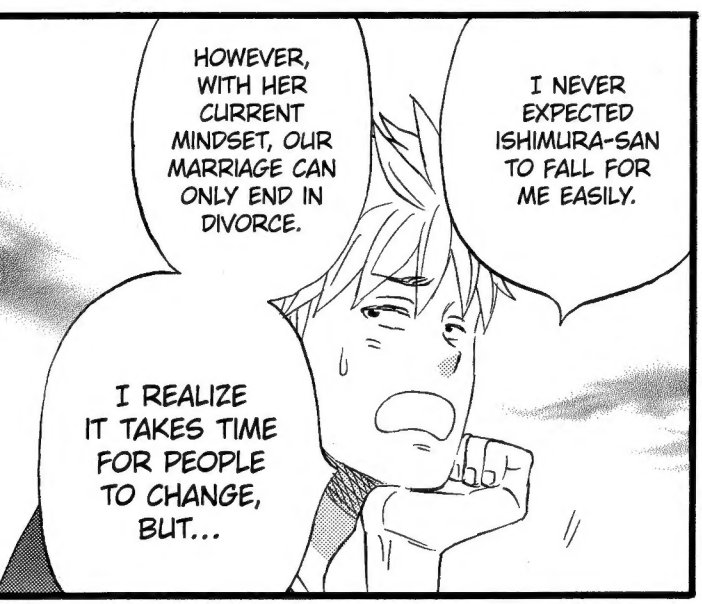


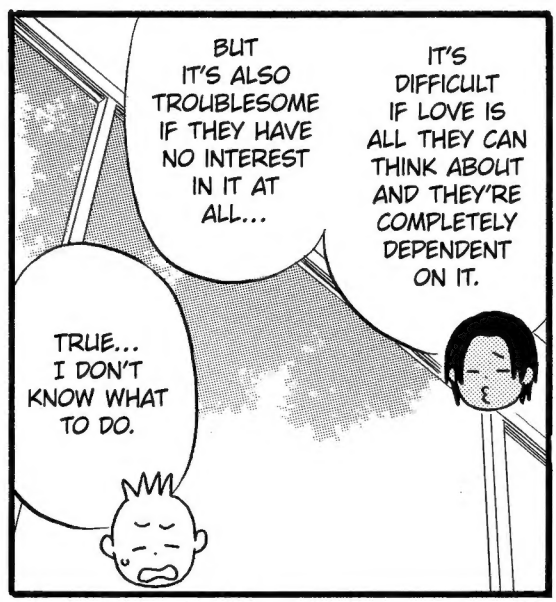

I MEAN, I LOVE NATTO AND MY FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE A TAKOYAKI MACHINE AT HOME OR ANYTHIN'.
WHOA! NOW I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO DOUBT YOU'RE FROM KANSAI...
HEY... DON'T YA PUSH IT NOW.

I KNOW SOME FOLKS GET UPSET WHEN PEOPLE FROM THE KANTO REGION USE THE KANSAI DIALECT.
BUT IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL.

I GUESS SHE DOESN'T REALLY NEED A BOYFRIEND.
clink
clink

YUP... THAT'S RIGHT...
AND YET THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT IS STILL AI-CHAN HERSELF, AIN'T THAT RIGHT?
ANYWAY, THAT HANDSOME DOCTOR IS A FORMIDABLE RIVAL.
Seriously... What's wrong with my wife...?
Hmm...


HOWEVER, WITH HER CURRENT MINDSET, OUR MARRIAGE CAN ONLY END IN DIVORCE.
I NEVER EXPECTED ISHIMURA-SAN TO FALL FOR ME EASILY.
I REALIZE IT TAKES TIME FOR PEOPLE TO CHANGE, BUT...

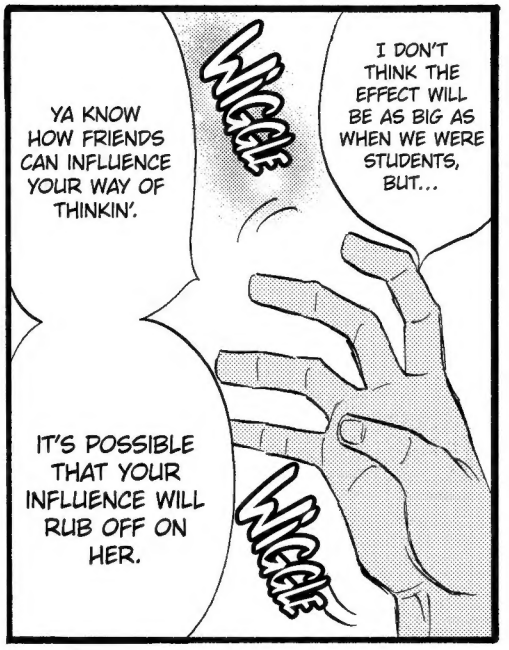

BUT IT'S ALSO TROUBLESOME IF THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN IT AT ALL...
IT'S DIFFICULT IF LOVE IS ALL THEY CAN THINK ABOUT AND THEY'RE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON IT.
TRUE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

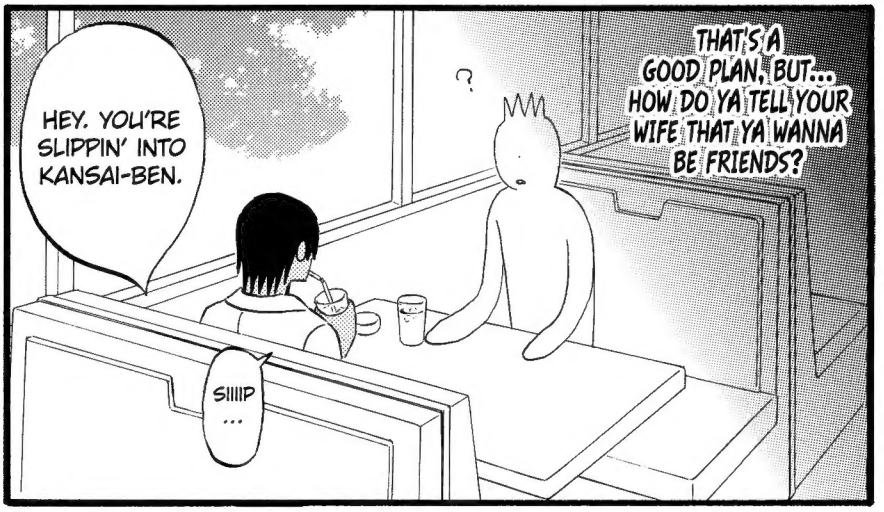
HUH?
ACTUALLY... IT MIGHT BE EASIER THAN YA THINK.

...
MAN... I CAN'T COME UP WITH A GOOD STRATEGY AT ALL.
Siiigh...

WHY DON'T YA START BY BEING FRIENDS WITH HER?

OHH ...!
YA CAN CHANGE HER MIND THAT WAY, KIRISHIMA...!
...


I DON'T THINK THE EFFECT WILL BE AS BIG AS WHEN WE WERE STUDENTS, BUT...
WIGGLE
YA KNOW HOW FRIENDS CAN INFLUENCE YOUR WAY OF THINKIN'.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOUR INFLUENCE WILL RUB OFF ON HER.
WIGGLE


HEY. YOU'RE SLIPPIN' INTO KANSAI-BEN.
THAT'S A GOOD PLAN, BUT... HOW DO YA TELL YOUR WIFE THAT YA WANNA BE FRIENDS?
?
SIIIIP ...